

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T OTTAWA 1341

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO CAN

SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE NATO SUMMIT

REFSTATE 81406

1. FOLLOWING PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE ON SUBJECT TOOK PLACE
IN COMMONS APRIL 10:

BEGIN QUOTE

MR. LLOYD R CROUSE (SOUTH SHORE): MR.SPEAKER, MY QUESTION
IS DIRECTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARIVY COUNCIL IN
HIS CAPACITY AS ACTING PRIME MINTER. AS THE UNITED KINGDOM
HAS CALLED FOR AN URGENT SUMMIT MEETING OF NATO IN MAY, BECAUSE
OF THE CONCERN THROUGHOUT EUROPE ABOUT THE SPREAD OF
COMMUNISM IN PORTUGAL,ITALY, FRANCE, ALL NATO COUNTRIES,
AND THE PROBLEMS FACED BY GREECE AND TURKEY, TWO NATO ALLIES,
HAS THIS MATTER BEEN DISCUSSED WITH OUR NATO PARTNER, THE
UNITED STATES,AND WHAT ACTION WILL CANADA TAKE IN RESPONE
TO THE REQUEST OF THE U.K.?

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HON MITCHELL SHARP (ACTIG PRIME MINISTER): MR SPEAKER, MY COLLEAGUE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, DISCUSSED THE IDEA OF SUCH A CONFERENCE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES, DR KISSNGER. WE ARE GIVING CONSIDERATION TO IT. OF COURSE, IF A MEETING WERE CALLED, AND IF IT WERE AGREEABLE TO OTHERS, WE WOULD BE THERE. HOWEVER, THE ISSUE IS THIS: IS THIS THE RIGHT TIME TO CALL SUCH A MEETING. IN GENERAL, I THINK THIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BELIEVE THAT A HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON NATO AFFAIRS IS DESIRABLE, BUT WEHTEHR THE TIMING OF THIS MEETIG IS THE RIGHT ONE IS THE QUESTION BEFORE US.

MR J M FORRESTALL (DARTMOUTH-HALIFAX EAST): MR SPEAKER, MAY I DIRECT A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. IS HE, OR THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER, IN A POSITION TO INFORM THE HOUSE OF THE POSITION CANADA WOULD ADOPT REPLY TO THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE AND DOES HE SEE ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CALL BY BRITAIN FOR A SUMMIT MEETING OF NATO LEADERS AND THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE.

HON ALLAN J MACEACHEN (SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS): THERE IS NOT THE NECESSARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A NATO SUMMIT MEETING AND A SECURITY CONFERENCE. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY CONFERENCE TO CONCLUDE ITS WORK AND BE ASSOCIATED WITH A NATO SUMMIT MEETING AT THE END OF MAY. IF THE CONFERENCE WERE TO CONCLUDE ITS WORK THIS SUMMER, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT A NATO SUMMIT COULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH THAT CONFERENCE IN THE FALL. BUT AT THE MOMENT THEY ARE NOT CONNECTED.

MR FORRESTALL: THE MINISTER NOW APPEARS TO BE TELLING THE HOUSE THAT IN THE OPINION OF THE GOVERNMENT A MEETING OF THE SENIOR LEADERS OF THE NATO COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT BE HELD UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN SOME DISPOSITION OF THE WORK OF THE SECURITY CONFERENCE. IS THAT WHAT HE IS SAYING?

MR MACEACHEN: NO. THAT IS NOT A FIRM POLICY. WE ARE, AS A GOVERNMENT, CONCERNED ABOUT FURTHER PROGRESS AT THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE AND WE WANT TO HANG IN THERE FOR A FURTHER PERIOD IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THIS PARTICULAR ASPECT

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OF OUR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. THE QUESTION OF A NATO SUMMIT MEETING AT THE PRESENT TIME HAS BEEN DEALT WITH BY THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER. WHILE IN PRINCIPLE WE WOULD FAVOUR A SUMMIT MEETING, A QUESTION COULD BE RAISED WHETHER THE TIMING--AT THE END OF MAY--IS APPROPRIATE. END QUOTE

2. COMMENT: EXTAFF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL E P BLACK TOLD DCM TODAY THAT ABOVE STILL REFLECTED GOC ATTI-

TUDE, THOUGH FINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO CANREP MENZIES IN BRUSSELS
WOULD NOT BE SIGNED OFF BY PM TRUDEAU TILL APRIL 12. DCM
PRESENTED POINTS OUTLINED REFTTEL, BUT BLACK SAID GOC CON-
TINUED WORRY THAT MAY SUMMIT WOULD BE PREMATURE AND RESULT IN
FURTHER SLOW-DOWN OF CSCE DELIBERATIONS, SINCE SOVIETS MIGHT
PERCEIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVING THEIR POSITION IF WESTERN
ALLIES EVINCED (BY HOLDING MEETING MENTIONING CSCR) THEY WERE
HOT TO TROT. HE ALSO SAID TRUDEAU PERSONALLY RELUCTANT TO
REVISIT EUROPE SO SOON AFTER MARCH CANTER AROUND COURSE IM-
PROVING CANADA'S TIES WITH EUROPEAN ALLIES.
PORTER

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